



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Visit Our Neighborhood!

www.fws.gov/neighborhoodexplorers





Visit Our Neighborhood, Then Go Outside in Yours!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has launched the Neighborhood Explorers (NX) website! Designed in partnership with Utah State University and LetterPress Software for 8–11 year olds, their educators and caregivers, the website reaches those not currently participating in outdoor programs and activities.

Discovery is as easy as a click of the mouse. Exploring the Club-House users can seek and identify birds by silhouette, learn about endangered and invasive species, find Sam the praying mantis, take “Lucy’s NX Challenge” and more. Just moving the mouse around the Club-House will take the user to new places. Explorers create nature reports and see their state’s Top Explorer. They earn badges as they complete projects, answer trivia questions and play games. Action projects include building bird houses, planting native plants, and adopting new habits, such as recycling and conserving water and electricity.

Specific website goals and outcomes are based on research about the target audience. The overall goal is to meet the audience where they are—on the computer—and offer a “safe” place to explore nature. Then, as their comfort level grows, explorers are encouraged to go outside to explore their “real” neighborhoods.

NX Goals

1. Children will spend more time playing in nature, under adult supervision.
2. Children will be able to recognize some elements of nature in their area.
3. Children will demonstrate an attitude of stewardship by describing what they can do to protect their local environment.

One challenge faced by LetterPress Software was to develop a virtual Club-House that could become a real clubhouse. The hope is that nature centers, youth groups, schools, national wildlife refuges and others will use the website’s projects and activities to start their own real world Neighborhood Explorers Club.

Through its Neighborhood Explorers website and other activities of the Connecting People with Nature: Ensuring a Legacy of Conservation priority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service creates a foundation to support Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar’s “*21st Century Youth Conservation Corps*.”

Check it out for yourself. Visit our exhibit booth or go to the Neighborhood Explorers website at www.fws.gov/neighborhoodexplorers. For more information, email us at letsgooutside@fws.gov.